

### Yemeni exiles' prisoners freed

AMMAN (AP) — North and South Yemen Monday required all political prisoners to be freed immediately, Radio Sanaa reported. The order came in a joint statement from the two countries' respective foreign ministers after their first joint meeting, which also approved the merging of ministries and government offices under a draft unity constitution signed last November. "The two countries decided on the immediate release of all political prisoners," the radio said, adding that detainees captive in both countries would be repatriated. The cabinet, meeting in Sanaa, called for a revision of laws covering prisons "to end any practice that clash with the principles that protect the basic rights of citizens," it said. All restrictions preventing the freedom of travel of both countries' nationals are to be removed, it added. The three-day meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Abd Al-Aziz Ghazi of North Yemen and Yemeni Said Nimer of the South, ended a joint committee, formed last month, to start a dialogue with political parties.

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### Hawatmeh named editor

AMMAN (J.T.) — George Hawatmeh, who edited the Jordan Times for five years before resigning in 1987, has been named editor-in-chief of the newspaper.

Hawatmeh replaces Dr. Walid Sadi who stays on at the Jordan Times as a columnist and an editorial writer. The change took effect Monday.

### Hassan II calls for single Maghreb state

TUNIS (Agencies) — The five states of the Arab Maghreb Union opened a summit meeting Monday to push ahead with plans for unity that King Hassan II of Morocco said should lead to one country with the same passport and currency.

Attending are host President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, King Hassan, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Mauritanian Foreign Minister Sheik Sid Ahmed Guld Bahi, representing President Mousa Sid Ahmed Ould Taya.

In the opening ceremony at the presidential palace, Hassan passed the union's rotating presidency to Ben Ali. "Our objective," the king said, "is to make the Arab Maghreb a single country with the same passport, the same identity card and the same currency."

The union was proclaimed in February 1989 in Marrakech, Morocco, as a sort of mini-common market, but in its years of existence it has achieved little real economic or political unity.

The Arab Maghreb Union is only a step on the road towards Arab unity sought in the framework of the Arab League," Ben Ali told the opening session of the summit, which ends Tuesday.

Ben Ali said the immediate economic priority was to achieve "food security" in the Maghreb.

The summit of the Arab Maghreb Union is the largest gathering of heads of state since an emergency Arab summit here in 1979 and it marks the debut of Ben Ali, who came to power in 1988, as the chairman of a regional organization.

But the arrangements have been a major headache for the Tunisians, who had to postpone the meeting twice, first to accommodate King Hassan and then because Qadhafi said he could not come on the new date.

### King Hussein asks government to give priority to solving unemployment

### All groups to be involved in drafting national pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday passed directives to the government emphasizing the need to involve all political movements in a royal commission which will be entrusted with drawing up a national charter.

The King said the charter should take into consideration the terms of the Jordanian Constitution, according to Prime Minister Badran.

Badran, in a statement given to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after a meeting held at the Prime Ministry and chaired by the King, said the royal commission would set up soon.

Several issues of public concern

were discussed at the meeting, with special attention given to the question of unemployment, Badran told Petra. King Hussein asked that the government give priority to resolving this problem, the prime minister added.

The Ministry of Labour estimates that 20 per cent of the total workforce in Jordan are unemployed and says that tighter controls will be imposed on an estimated 265,000 illegal foreign workers, mainly Egyptian and Syrians, to make room for Jordanians to be employed in various areas.

According to Minister of Labour Qassem Obaidat, unemployment is now the government's main worry. The government hopes that the number of foreign workers in Jordan will be cut from 300,000 to 200,000 by the end of 1990. Obaidat told the Reuters news agency that up to 60,000 Jordanians, many well-educated were jobless out of a local workforce of 300,000.

During Monday's meeting at the Prime Ministry, King Hussein was briefed on discussions held by the Lower House of Parliament's financial committee, Badran said.

The King issued directives on matters pertaining to the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Arab Cooperation Council, he added.

### Israel has seized 2.8m dunums of Palestinian land since 1967

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli authorities have confiscated 2,838,358 dunums of Arab land in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the start of occupation following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, according to a statement by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs in Amman.

The statement, which summed up Israel's illegal practices in the occupied Arab lands, especially during the intifada, said that the Israeli had confiscated 45,740 dunums of land in the West Bank in November 1989 alone. Israel also plans to sustain confiscation policies with the aim of settling new Jewish immigrants. December

1989, which marked the end of the two years of uprising, witnessed an escalation of anti-Israeli protests in the occupied territories countered by stepped up repressive measures against the Palestinian citizens, said the statement.

The Israeli, the statement said, tried and sentenced 550 Palestinians to prison terms ranging from several months to 10 years, imposed fines on others, demolished 36 Arab houses and killed 29 Arab citizens in December alone.

The past month also witnessed stepped up Israeli efforts in enlarging Jewish settlements and creating new ones in the occupied areas with the same passport, the same identity card and the same currency."

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## Israeli colonel, 4 others killed in Lebanon battles

SIDON (Agencies) — Abu Nidal Palestinian group claimed responsibility Monday for the border attack in which an Israeli army colonel was killed.

A statement by Fateh-Revolutionary Council, the group led by Abu Nidal, said the guerrilla squad was "until now fighting the enemy forces who were deployed in the area."

But, the Israeli army said Israeli infantry and tank forces chased and shot dead the Arab guerrillas responsible Monday.

The Abu Nidal statement said the attack was in retaliation for Friday's Israeli air raids on Palestinian bases and positions of Hizbullah.

Seven people were killed and 18 wounded in the raids, the first Israeli air strikes against targets in Lebanon this year.

Israeli army Colonel Yitzhak Rahimov was killed Sunday in a gun battle with guerrillas who occupied a house in the zone Israel occupies in South Lebanon. He was the highest ranking officer killed since Israel with-

Troops promptly stormed the three-storey house and found the body of one guerrilla there, said Israel's chief of staff, Dan Shomron. He said it was not certain whether he was killed by Israeli troops or by cover fire from his squad members.

After Sunday's exchange,

troops backed by tanks launched an overnight search for two other guerrillas who the soldiers believed had fled the house, the

army said.

"A chase has been going on since the early morning hours, and in the end they were discovered and in a short battle they were eliminated," Shomron said on Israel army radio Monday.

An army announcement said "a fourth guerrilla was sighted in the area and was also killed by the Israel defence forces after a chase." It was not immediately clear whether the fourth guerrilla was in the house at the time of Sunday's ambush.

Sources in Lebanon said the identity of the guerrillas could not be immediately determined.

The clashes occurred in Israel's self-declared "security zone," a four-to-20-kilometre deep strip in South Lebanon designed as a buffer against resistance attacks.

The "security zone," set up in June 1985, is patrolled jointly by Israeli troops and about 3,000 militiamen from the SLA.

Last year, two Israeli soldiers and 12 SLA fighters were killed in clashes with guerrillas in the zone.

**DFLP welcomes ex-Mossad chief's independent proposal**

NICOSIA (AP) — A Palestinian guerrilla faction has welcomed a Middle East peace plan devised by a former Israeli intelligence official and said it has "positive points."

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said the plan proposed by Shmuel Toledano should be considered a working paper for discussion between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in the framework of preparations for an international Middle East peace conference.

The DFLP said in a statement sent to the Associated Press in Nicosia that one of the main points of interest in the plan was a survey showing that 60 per cent of Israelis would accept it.

"If the plan's survey is close to the truth, then it should be considered a sign of change in Israeli public opinion that is worth checking and following up," the statement said.

The peace plan, which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state in stages, was proposed last week by Toledano, an adviser on Arab affairs to three Israeli premiers and a former official of the Mossad intelligence agency.

Toledano, 66, called on Israel in his plan to declare its willingness to accept a Palestinian state

and withdraw from almost all the occupied territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within five years.

He suggested that the PLO end the two-year-old uprising in the occupied zones, halt attacks and recognise Israel, while the neighbouring Arab states should end the state of war against Israel and create special ties with the Jewish state.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has already denounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist in a new peace initiative.

But hardline guerrilla factions, who have serious reservations about Arafat's initiative, have continued to attack Israeli forces, arguing that hitting military targets is legitimate.

**PLO 'commitment'**

Arafat has reaffirmed the PLO's commitment to a peace settlement with Israel, Oman's Al Watan daily said.

The PLO chairman was quoted as saying in an interview published that it was up to his organisation to decide how to reach a settlement with Israel.

Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos, met Arafat Saturday to discuss the stalled peace process and agreed to upgrade the PLO office in Muscat, opened last year, to an

embassy.

Arafat, interviewed after his meeting with Qaboos, also stressed that the two-year-old uprising will continue "despite all the human and material losses it faces every day, and despite Israeli obduracy."

He said the reformist movements which have swept Communist governments from power in Eastern Europe were "imitating" the uprising that erupted in December 1987.

"We are keen to pursue our peace directive, for it is we who choose the type of battle and the type of fighting," Al Watan quoted Arafat as saying.

Israel, while proposing elections for the occupied territories, has refused to any negotiations on the issue that include PLO representatives.

**'Oil gives power'**

Arafat said Sunday increased reliance on Arab oil would give Arabs a bigger say in world politics, the Omani News Agency reported.

"After 1992, the West's needs for Arab oil will become more than any time in the past because of depleting wells in America and declining output from the North Sea," it quoted Arafat as saying before leaving Oman.

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Goulding left Beirut for Syria.

**A source close to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said Goulding's meeting with Fadallah was to "try to ascertain Higgins' fate."**

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observer team in South Lebanon, was kidnapped near the southern port of Tyre Feb. 17, 1988. The pro-Iranian Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth claimed it killed him last July after Israel kidnapped a

## Goulding ends talks on fate of Higgins

BEIRUT (AP) — United Nations envoy Marrack Goulding wound up talks with Lebanese government and militia officials Monday on the fate of U.S. marine William Higgins, who was reported hanged by his pro-Iranian kidnappers last summer.

Goulding, an assistant secretary-general, met with Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadallah, the spiritual head of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizbullah, and with Nabih Berri, justice minister and leader of the Secular Shi'ite Amal militia.

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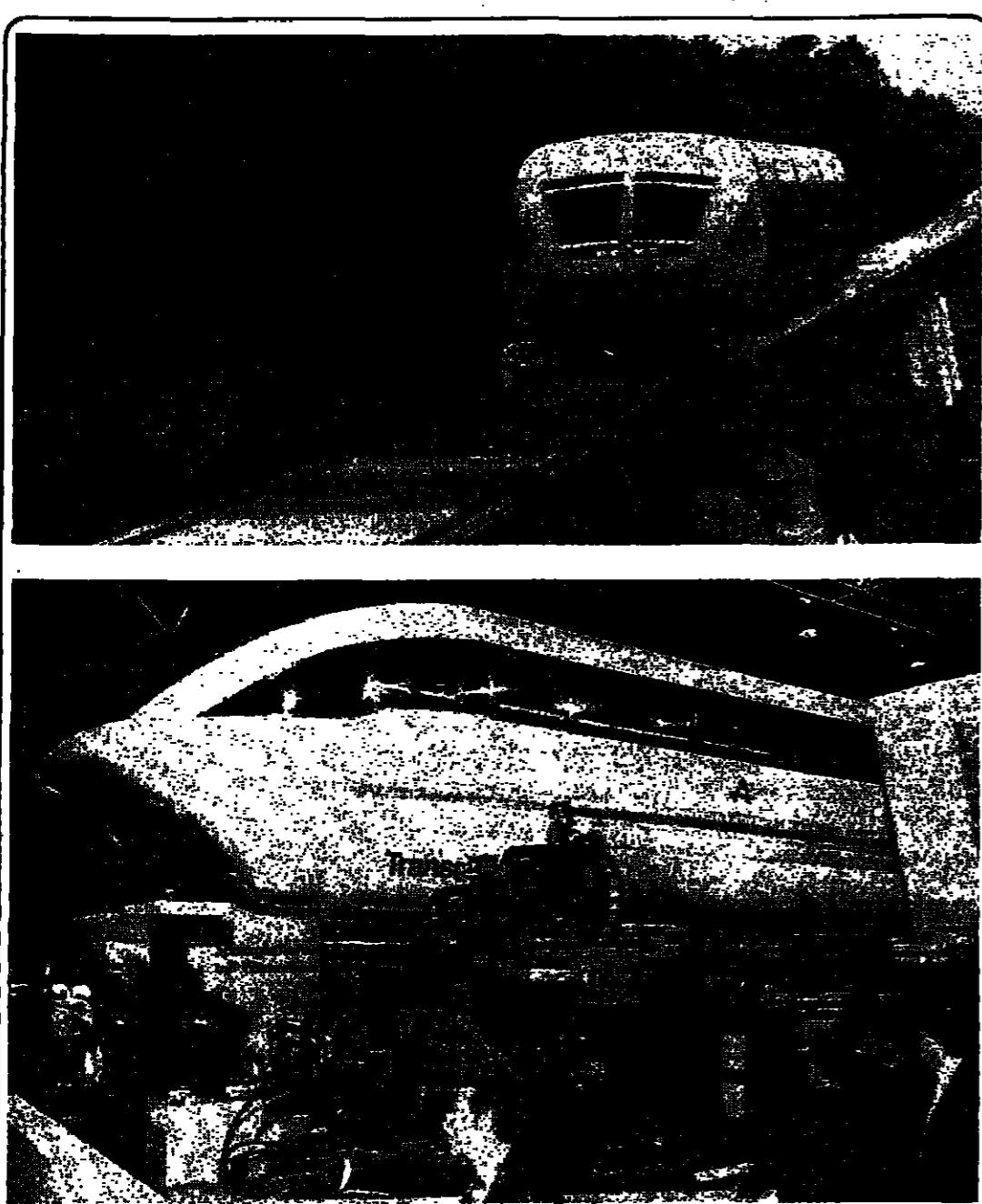
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The "Transrapid" German high-speed hovertrain, recently reached 430 kilometres per hour on the test stretch of track in Euskirchen. In a few years' time this "Train of the future" will be

## 'Transrapid' makes two airports into one

By K. Rüdiger Durth

BONN (DaD) — The Bonn government has decided on a definite policy for rail traffic in the future. The "Transrapid," the high-speed hovertrain developed by German firms with a speed of up to 500 kilometres per hour, will run on a 100-kilometre stretch of track between Bonn and Essen. From 1996/1997 the Transrapid will link the major airports at Düsseldorf and Cologne/Bonn with one another. Air passengers will be able to move from one airport to the other within 15 minutes.

The Bonn government has also decided that new track will be laid between Cologne and Frankfurt to take the high-speed Inter-City Experimental (ICE), to be ready for operations by 1991. The ICE will halve the two-hour travelling time needed at present to get to and from these cities. This high-speed track, which will have a stop in Bonn, will create an important stretch of the future high-speed link between Paris and Frankfurt, via Brussels and Cologne, with connections to any number of other destinations.

Heinz Riesenhuber, the Bonn government's Scientific Research Minister, believes that there are great opportunities for the Transrapid, whose development the Bonn government has so far supported with DM1.4 billion. Herr Riesenhuber said: "I see in the high-speed hovertrain an

environmentally-friendly option for future high-speed rail systems, which can make a valuable contribution to the rail network as a whole."

"Transrapid" and ICE are mainly designed to relieve the pressure on German air space, making short-haul flights superfluous.

At the same time the Bonn government hopes for good sales of the high-speed hovertrain on world markets. The "Transrapid" is ideally suited for fast connections between cities in sparsely-populated regions. It is not surprising then that there is considerable interest abroad, particularly in the U.S., for this German "Train of the future."

With this decision for the construction of the first stretch for use by the "Transrapid" of the two airports, Cologne/Bonn and Düsseldorf, will develop to be almost a single major airport in North Rhine-Westphalia. It should relieve overburdened Frankfurt airport.

The new "Transrapid" will not be built by German Railways, the Bundesbahn. It is more likely that the train will have its own construction and distribution company, which will consist of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the cities of Cologne, Bonn, Düsseldorf and Essen, the airports and air companies. It is estimated that the construction of the Bonn-Essen track for the "Transrapid" will cost DM3.2 billion. To this can be added DM400 million for the trains.

to cooperate with them.

Dean Juliet Floria said she told students she would submit their request for Cucurezeanu's dismissal to the faculty, along with a suggestion that his upcoming exam for second-year students be reviewed by a professorial committee.

"It will be up to the faculty to decide," she said, but added, "we have to answer the students."

demands.

Cucurezeanu took another view. "We don't have to bend our ears to students' talk," he said.

Wrapped in a coat and scarf in his sparsely heated office, Cucurezeanu denied he infused his courses with talk of Communism and offered to produce documents from the ministry of education — issued under the old government — testifying to his

credentials.

He maintained only second-year students wanted him fired because they'd become caught up in last month's revolution and had not studied enough for his exam.

"Until now, I never had problems with students," he said. However, hundreds of signatures on the petitions were from third- and fourth-year students shot fac-

ing Cucurezeanu's exam.

Students said that in other departments of the polytechnic, a sprawling campus with nearly 30,000 students, efforts also were under way to dismiss professor viewed as incompetent or as Communist party apparatchiks.

At Bucharest University, students were making similar moves. There are factions in the language department for and against the

firing of Michaela Ceausescu, a niece of the late dictator, as a professor of Russian. The issue has been submitted to the central administration for a decision.

At the polytechnic, student Sorin Popao said dormitories were organising to get rid of suspected informers, often non-students who lived in the dorms as administrators or staff.

"In my dorm, we confronted

two of them in the hall last night," said Popao, 22, from the town of Baia Mare.

"It started with a couple of us and one of them said, 'no not me, you people are the informers,'" Popao related.

"But," he continued, "when a crowd gathered, the same person said, 'the police called me and asked for information. What could I do?'"

## Students want courses in democracy, ouster of bad teachers

By G.G. Labelle  
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romania's revolution moved into university classrooms Tuesday with students demanding an end to courses on Marxism and the dismissal of professors regarded more for their knowledge of Communism than of physics or chemistry.

Notices pasted on doorways at Bucharest's Polytechnic University called for required military courses for women to be dropped and for student votes on the competency of teachers to be introduced.

In dormitories, students sought to get rid of residents suspected of having informed for the deposed government.

The Romanian students' meetings and petitions mirrored the string of public denunciations that have arisen since dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown Dec. 22 and executed three days later.

Newspapers have denounced everyone in turn, from Ceausescu to the country's current interim leaders and in one case even the head of a small farm cooperative accused of buying a university diploma with 200 pigs.

In the polytechnic's physics department, students were signing petitions Tuesday to demand the ouster of a professor named Ilie Cucurezeanu.

"In his lectures he started by explaining Communist ideology, but he couldn't explain physics," charged Daniel Florescu, 22, a second-year student from Bucharest.

Roxana Mitroi, 20, from Romania's Moldavia complained that Cucurezeanu often asked students who gave incorrect answers, "What kind of Communist are you?"

Florescu said the second-year physics students had met with the department dean, who promised

By Alan Coopernman  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The first Soviet rock opera, a production that dates from the Brezhnev era, has come to New York with the original cast but new optimism.

In the concluding scene, the narrator tells the audience that the opera's Russian hero and his American lover tried to bridge the distance between the two countries with love. The entire cast of 60 then sings "Hallelujah" with such abandon that the tragic finale is all but forgotten.

"Eight years ago, when we sang 'Hallelujah' about a Soviet-American love affair, it was virtually an act of sedition," Yelena Shashina, the lead female singer, recalls.

"Now, it's celebrating a new beginning."

Even the name of the opera has changed with the times. To the original title, "Junon and Avos," producers Lucy Jarvis and Pierre Cardin have attached a subtitle: "The Hope."

Whether the good feelings and exotic music will succeed in filling New York's City Centre Theatre for the five-week run is still uncertain. A spokesman said ticket sales were slow before the Jan. 5 opening but have picked up since the first reviews — favourable though not ecstatic — appeared last week.

Regardless of whether the \$2-million production is a commercial success, its arrival represents the culmination of an extraordi-

ary political journey.

When it somehow squeaked past the censors in 1981, the opera caused a sensation in Moscow. Though set in 1806, it contained a thinly disguised caricature of Leonid Brezhnev as a dithering old man with a chest full of medals and a gold mask with huge eyebrows.

That, alone, might have ensured a thron of Soviet theatregoers. But Andrei Vosnesensky, a leading Soviet poet, added two other politically daring elements in his libretto. One was a reverent treatment of religious symbols, including words from the Russian orthodox mass.

The other was an implied message that the Soviet Union shared the blame for an impasse in relations with the United States. That message was expressed through the story of Count Nikolai Rezanov, who courageously sails off to explore trading links with California — then a Spanish colony — and falls in love with the governor's daughter.

"Junon and Avos," named for Rezanov's two ships, ends in tragedy as politics and illness foil Rezanov's mission and separate him from his lover, the beautiful Conchita. She waits 35 years for his return, then enters a convent when she learns he died before obtaining the czar's permission to marry her.

Vosnesensky says the plot is loosely based on historical truth — there was, indeed, a Count Rezanov who helped found the Russian-American Trading Co.,

travelled to California in 1806 and died in Siberia on his way home.

But the rest of the story is pure fiction. Vosnesensky now acknowledges that we conceived it, following the outline of his earlier poem "Avos" as a metaphor for the strained Soviet-American relations of the Brezhnev era.

"My hero, historical Count Rezanov, was not a greater fighter for freedom. But I have put in his mouth all the words of our intellectuals," Vosnesensky said in an interview in New York.

"When he says 'the Russian empire is a prison,' our audiences understood what I was saying. Now it's okay just to say it. But in 1981 it wasn't okay. So I put the words in Rezanov's mouth — and it worked."

It didn't work right away, however. Vosnesensky and director Marc Zakharov repeatedly modified the opera in an effort to gain permission for it to open at Moscow's Lenin Komsomol Theatre. After the authorities had rebuffed them for the second or third time, Vosnesensky recalls, he began to despair.

"I was worried, but Zakharov said to me, 'there is one more person I know who can help us.' So I didn't ask questions. I got in his car, we went to the main cathedral of Moscow, and we lit candles to the Virgin Mary."

"I don't know whether maybe Zakharov called someone else that night. But the next morning, 'Junon and Avos' was allowed."

Timothy Ryback, a Harvard

University researcher who has written a book about rock 'n' roll in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, says that despite official condemnation, rock music had developed a huge following in Russia by the end of the 1980s.

Nevertheless, "Junon and Avos" is believed to have been the first full rock opera publicly staged in the Soviet Union.

Cardin, the French fashion designer who has set up clothing factories in the Soviet Union, heard about the show and asked to see it while on a three-day business trip to Moscow in 1982. It was not playing that weekend.

So the ministry of culture, eager to please the famous designer and perhaps secure business links with his fashion empire, moved the entire set and company to a vacant theatre 40 kilometres outside Moscow. There, the ministry staged a command performance on little more than a day's notice — much to Cardin's embarrassment.

Enraptured by the music — an eclectic mix of folk melodies, thumping electric guitars and Gregorian chants arranged by contemporary composer Alexei Ribnikov — Cardin decided on the spot to bring the show to his Paris theatre, Espace Cardin.

He says Soviet cultural officials tried to persuade him to take the Bolshoi ballet or the Moscow circus instead, but he held firm and eventually got his wish after appealing to Brezhnev's successor, Yuri Andropov.

"I say I want to make something for the young people," Cardin recalled. "I tell them I know that is from before the revolution."

Then, just a few days before the show in Paris opening in September '85, a Soviet fighter pilot shot down Korean Air Lines flight 007, with 269 people aboard, after it apparently strayed into Soviet air space over the sea of Japan. Suddenly, Cardin began to worry about bombings and security.

"My friends say to me, 'Pierre, you cannot do this (opera) now, because if you do that, your theatre — poof — bomb.' People were so mad. But I say I make this only for talent, for respect for the Russia. I am not a politician," Cardin said.

Although the Paris production went off without a hitch, Cardin said he hesitated to bring "Junon and Avos" to the United States until superpower relations began to improve under Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The arrangements in New York were made by Mrs. Jarvis, a New York television and theatrical producer who took the Broadway musical "Sophisticated Ladies" on a seven-week tour of the Soviet Union in the fall of 1988. She and Cardin say the production might travel to the future to San Francisco and Japan.

"I am not a politician," said Cardin. "But maybe with art, you can build something stronger than with politics."

## Buffalo makes startling recovery after brush with extinction

By Denis M. Sears  
The Associated Press

hide's thicker (than cattle), they got a lot more hair and they eat and tend to be more like wild animals — store fat in the fall and their metabolism slows down in the winter, so they require less feed.

"There are some exciting times. We drive them about 35 kilometres to pasture and back every year cross country. We used to use horses but we use motorcycles now. The buffalo don't charge the cycles as bad as they do horses."

The price of good buffalo breeding stock has doubled in the past five years to about \$1,500 for a young breed cow, twice what a comparable beef cow brings, according to the Denver-based ABA. But buffalo meat also brings twice the price of beef, and it's lean meat. An 85-gram serving has 93 calories, compared to 183 for beef; 43 milligrams of cholesterol, compared to 55 for beef; and 1.8 grams of fat, compared to 8.7 for beef, the association says.

A buffalo cow can bear calves for 30 years or more, while a cow is usually sent to slaughter after

about 10. Stockmen can also sell skulls for \$100 or so, uncurled robes for \$6 to 12 a square foot, and mountable heads for \$400 or up.

The symbol of the American west is an imposing animal. It has a black-brown, shaggy head and cape and short curved black

horns. A mature bull stands more than two metres tall at its hump and weighs 900 kilos.

A century ago, the buffalo was nearly exterminated as the railroads pushed westward. The slaughter was triggered by demand for meat to feed the rail crews and the crowded east, a new tanning method that let the spongy hides be used as leather, and political expediency — to destroy the plains Indians' food supply.

It was not until the early 20th century that buffalo preservation became a concern. The newly created American Bison Society and President Teddy Roosevelt were able to convince Congress to set up preserves in Oklahoma and Montana in 1907. By then there were several hundred buffaloes in private herds.

"It was the ranchers who really took it upon themselves to save the Bison," said Duane Lammers, president of the ABA. "Some of those early people who wanted to save the buffaloes had Indian heritage, some had Indian wives. It was very important to them to save the bison... genuine care for them."

Buffalo stockmen warn that the bison remains a wild animal, extremely powerful and territorial. There is an old saying that you can push a buffalo anywhere it wants to go. Another is never turn your back on a buffalo.

But the advantages are apparent as well.

"They are easier to take care of," said Lammers, who runs about 1,000 head on his Triple Seven ranch in South Dakota.

"If a storm comes up, I'm not losing sleep over my cattle. With my buffalo, I can just sleep through the night."

RENT

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# Jordan potash earnings rise

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's Dead Sea potash industry, aided by firm prices and a lower dinar, boosted earnings and profits in 1989, managing director Ali Ensour said Monday.

Potash, a fertiliser ingredient, accounts for about a fifth of Jordan's visible exports.

"Our told Reuters the Arab Potash Company (APC) sold 1.25 million tonnes of potash for \$125 million, compared to 1988 sales of 1.3 million for \$120 million.

Gross profit rose to 38 million dinar (\$57 million) from 14 million (\$21 million) in 1988, when APC made its first profit since production began in 1983.

"We expect to sell 1.35 million tonnes this year and earn \$130 to \$135 million," Ensour said.

The company hoped to recoup accumulated losses of 40 million dinar (\$60 million) by the end of 1990. Dividends would be paid until losses had been covered, Ensour said.

He said the depreciation of the dinar, which lost 26 per cent of its

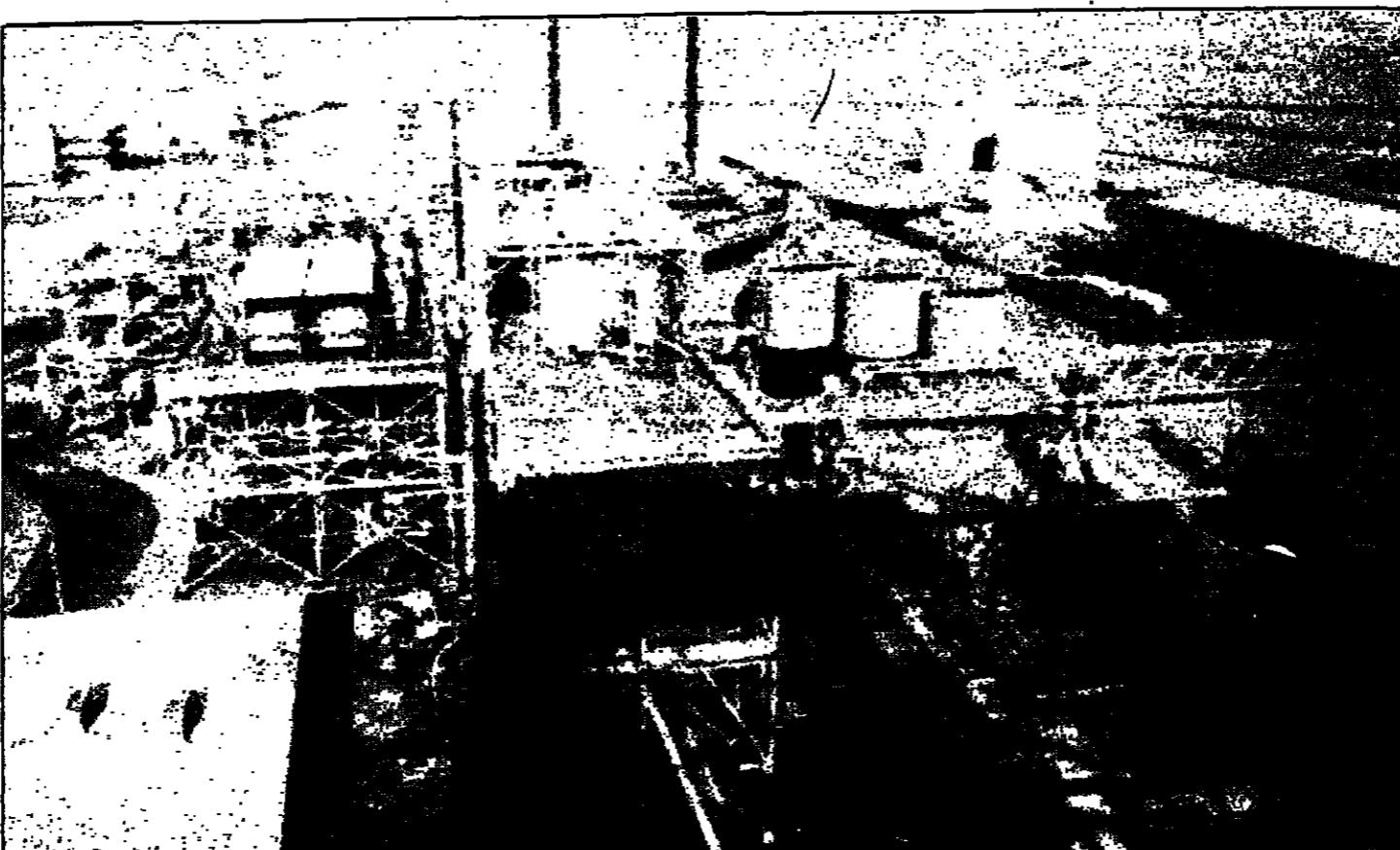
dollar value last year, had swelled dinar profits.

Jordan, which has a 54 per cent stake in the pan-Arab APC, began charging royalties of three dinars a tonne last April, but the debt-laden company remains exempt from tax.

Other APC shareholders include the Arab Mining Company, with 25 per cent, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank.

Ensour said he expected world potash prices, now about \$98 a tonne, to remain firm.

APC is planning to expand production capacity to 1.8 million tonnes a year from 1.4 million over the next three years. The World Bank and Islamic Development Bank are expected to finance about half the \$66 million



The Potash Company plant (file photo)

cost of the project.

Pilot plants for cold crystallisation and flotation processes were

built in the last two years and APC expects to invite bids for a new refinery line in early 1991.

Ensour said he hoped for an expansion to 2.25 million tonnes a year by the end of the decade, whether or not plans for related chemical industries on the Dead Sea went ahead.

## Arab states to launch fund to boost trade

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab states are to set up a fund with private sector help to boost trade between them, the Arab League's monetary chief said Monday.

The fund "will aim to develop national trade among Arab countries and boost competitiveness of Arab exports," Osama Al Fagih, chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), said in a lecture.

He said Arab finance and economy ministers would meet in Abu Dhabi in April to launch the fund, which would have capital of \$500 million and operate from the AMF offices.

"We expect it to be successful because it is the first pan-Arab scheme in which the private sector plays a significant part," he said.

He hoped the new fund, which will head, would finance trade worth \$1 billion per year at the first and larger sums later.

The AMF would finance half the fund's capital. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### GIB to raise paid-in capital

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf International Bank (GIB), Bahrain's second-largest offshore bank, said Monday it had approved plans to raise its paid-in capital by \$420 million to its authorised level of \$1.06 billion. A bank spokesman said the general assembly of GIB

gave the go-ahead to raise the balance of capital from its existing shareholders at a meeting on Jan. 18. Dates and procedures for the move would be set later. The general assembly also studied plans to allocate part of its shares to citizens in the bank's seven owner states, the spokesman said. There were no further details.

GIB is owned equally by the governments of Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (AMF), said in a lecture.

Exports by the 21 Arab League states to each other peaked in 1986 at 9.2 per cent of their total exports, falling to 7.4 per cent in 1988.

Imports in 1988 were 7.7 per cent of total imports, down from a 1981 peak of 10.3 per cent. Inter-Arab trade totalled \$11.5 billion in 1988.

The low level of trade among Arab states is among the basic problems facing their economies," Fagih said. "Lack of financing and customs and non-customs barriers are among the main reasons."

#### Iran allots \$5.7b for oil, gas refineries

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has allotted 400 billion riyals (\$5.7 billion at the official exchange rate) to build oil and gas refineries and a lubricant production unit in the year starting March 21, Tehran radio has said.

The money will be spent on oil refineries in Arak and Bandar Abbas, the second phase of Kangan gas refinery on the Gulf coast and the lubricant unit at Isfahan oil refinery. The radio did not say how much of the expenditure would be in foreign exchange. The budget was approved by a board meeting of the National Iranian Oil Company, chaired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The radio, monitored in Cyprus, said Iran would produce all its needs in refined products after the two oil refineries came on stream by March 1994. The lubricant unit, expected to be operative in 14 months, would save Iran its current motor oil import bill of \$100 million a year.

## Egypt earns \$2.4b from tourism

CAIRO (R) — Egypt earned \$2.4 billion from tourism last year with West Germany the biggest single source of visitors — a flow which could be affected by changes in Eastern Europe.

"For emotional reasons, we expect an increase in inter-European travel in the coming period," Sayyed Moussa, head of the Egyptian General Authority

for the Promotion of Tourism, told Reuters Monday. "But this will not deny other parts in the world their share of world tourism."

"Of course, curiosity will drive large numbers to see this world that has been closed for years. But there will be another flow out of Eastern European countries to the outside world," Moussa said.

Tourism is one of Egypt's main foreign currency earners and last year's revenue showed an increase of 20 per cent over 1988.

Government figures show that 2.5 million tourists visited Egypt in 1989 against 1.96 million in 1988. Hotel occupancy ranged between 75 and 80 per cent last year.

About 225,000 tourists came

## China assures creditors over repayments

BEIJING (Agencies) — China assured foreign banks and governments Monday that it would be able to repay its heavy debts after announcing a dramatically improved trade balance for 1989.

"Looking at last year's trade situation, we can guarantee debt servicing over the next few years," Foreign trade ministry spokesman Liu Xiangdong told a news conference.

"We welcome these signs and developments but we do not have any unrealistic fantasies," Liu said.

In Tokyo, a government official said Japan had decided to grant loans for projects involving "human needs" that were part of an 810-billion-yen (\$5.6 billion) package promised for 1990 to 1995 and later suspended.

Japanese banks are set to resume lending discreetly to China with the blessing of Japan's ministry of finance, banking sources in Hong Kong said Monday.

Some foreign bankers have voiced fears that China could be forced to reschedule debt payments because of political instability and its austerity programme that is dragging down economic growth.

Diplomats in Beijing said that for the time being China was able to meet its payment schedule.

"China's debt is not large in comparison with its export earnings. Most people feel they will be able to service their debt without too much trouble," a Western diplomat said.

Sanctions imposed by Western governments banning new official loans in retaliation for the crushing of the pro-democracy movement last June mean China's foreign exchange reserves were \$16.3 billion on Dec. 20 last year, down \$1.2 billion from end-1988.

According to foreign trade ministry figures, China boosted its trade surplus to \$5 billion in 1989 from \$300 million in 1988, Liu said.

Exports rose in 1989 by 6.5 per cent to \$43.27 billion while imports fell 3.9 per cent to \$38.27 billion.

Each year, China releases two sets of different trade figures.

Western economists follow the customs statistics because they are more complete than the foreign trade ministry figures.

Customs statistics showed that in the first 11 months of 1989 China posted a \$6.67 billion deficit, against a \$5.45 billion shortfall in the same 1988 period. The Customs Bureau said imports had increased by 12.6 per cent.

Customs figures for all of 1989 were not yet available.

Liu said China's trade with the United States grew by 13.7 per cent in 1989 while trade with Japan fell by five per cent. Trade with the Soviet Union rose by 28.9 per cent, reflecting improved relations between the communist neighbours.

He said trade would develop steadily and predicted that imports would rebound. He said purchases of some goods, namely luxury and consumer items, would be banned or restricted.

Meanwhile, China's urban unemployment rate reached 2.3 per cent by the end of last year's third quarter as a result of state-mandated cutbacks in construction and spending, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The China Daily said 3.4 mil-

lion people were officially listed as waiting for work at the end of October. It quoted Song Chang-qing, chief of the labour and wages division of the state statistical bureau, as saying the total by now "may far surpass" that.

The rate for the same period in 1988 was two per cent.

However, Chinese unemployment figures do not include rural residents, who are considered permanently employed on the land even though millions have left to work in factories in recent years. More than three million rural factories shut down during 1989 due to the government's austerity programme but their former workers are not counted in Song's figures.

His figures also do not include millions of urban workers who were laid off in the last quarter of the year because their factories lacked operating capital. Most receive 70 per cent of their base pay while idle.

However, base pay does not include the bonuses and subsidies that Chinese workers use to make ends meet, and the resultant drop in income caused so much discontent that some cities ordered factories to call the workers back even if there is nothing for them to do.

Chinese sources this winter have reported labour unrest, including petitions asking permission to demonstrate, at factories in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing in the southwest and several northeastern cities.

### THE BETTER HALF



"I witnessed a true Christmas miracle! Stanley went all day without offending any of my relatives!"

Peanuts

YES, MA'AM, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE WORLD IS CHANGING ALL AROUND US



EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE TIDES ARE MOVING... YES, EVEN AS WE SPEAK...

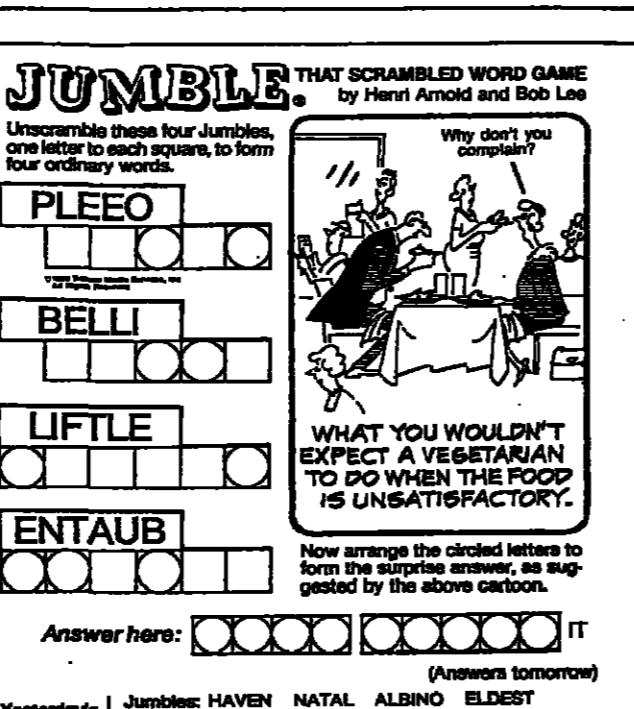


I LIKE THAT EXPRESSION, 'MARCIE...'



YOU'RE WEIRD, SIR!

Andy Capp



Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumble: HAVEN NATAL ALBINO ELDEST

Answer: That unconvincing witness was making the jury wonder -- WHAT "LIES" AHEAD

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A rise in the Tokyo market failed to inspire buyers. The All Ordinaries Index fell 1.6 to 1,672.3.

TOKYO — A growing sense that long-term yen bond yields have peaked encouraged investors. Arbitrage buying boosted the Nikkei Index 420.47 to 37,257.01.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index shed 4.64 to close at 1,771.65. Brokers said confidence was undermined by a blueprint issued over the weekend for the post-1997 constitution, showing China wanted a slow pace in democratic reforms.

SINGAPORE — Selective and rotational buying encouraged by Tokyo's rise dominated moderate trading. The Straits Times Index rose 8.20 to 1,535.41.

BOMBAY — A hike in deposit margins on sales failed to curb the bears. Share prices finished lower.

FRANKFURT — Shares slipped from midsession highs on lack of follow-through. The 30-share Dax Index ended up 5.74 at 1779.30.

ZURICH — Swiss shares edged back from a slightly firmer opening in quiet trade. The All-Share Performance Index fell 0.8 to 1,194.

PARIS — Few investors were taking initiatives before the accounting month ends Tuesday. The CAC-40 index lost 10.13 to 1,927.81.

LONDON — Wall Street depressed a market already lower on gloomy U.K. economic outlook. At 1645 GMT the FTSE index was down 31.6 to 2,303.4.

NEW YORK — Disappointing earnings weighed on shares. Analysts say Wall Street is oversold but needs buyers to rally. At 1647 GMT Dow Jones Industrials were down 33.98 to 2,643.92.

## Iran to legalise moneychangers

All Pakpour told Reuters by telephone.

"We virtually acted as a building society in Britain. But many of these services are now banned in Iran as usurious," he noted.

Pakpour said the open market dollar rose to 1,170 riyals Sunday, a gain of 10 riyals on Saturday and 30 riyals on Thursday, because of tight supplies of foreign exchange.

State banks sell dollars to a designated group of businesses for 800 riyals at a "competitive rate."

The measure announced by the central bank is the latest by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government to ease state controls on the economy and promote the private sector.

A statement by the bank read on Tehran radio said prospective money changers who have "general qualifications," a permanent place of business and guarantees of at least 100 million riyals (\$1.4 million at the official exchange rate) may apply for a permit from Saturday.

The policy aimed at regulating the free market in foreign exchange, preventing currency violations and ending street-corner deals, it said.

A London-based Iranian foreign exchange dealer predicted little change as the result of the new policy because other banking services offered by currency dealers after the revolution remain banned.

"We used to keep people's deposits. We bought gold and businessmen's promissory notes,"

"against Iraq.

# Sports

## EUROPEAN SOCCER

### Italian league shrugs off mid-season blues

Reuter

WITH Diego Maradona singing the charms of Napoli and Dutch international Marco van Basten delighting in a new-found happiness with AC Milan, the Italian Soccer league seems to be all smiles after a spate of winter blues.

While the Argentine World Cup captain led the league leaders to a 2-0 victory at Verona on Sunday to keep his side two points in front, van Basten scored twice as Milan beat Udinese by the same margin to stay three points behind with a game in hand.

Van Basten's double for the world club champions made him the top scorer in Italy, taking his tally to 12 goals with five of them

in the last four days of domestic league matches.

"I score because I'm happy," the European footballer of the year told the *Gazetta dello Sport* paper afterwards.

Maradona had himself come in for a hefty amount of personal criticism as Napoli struggled to beat humble opposition and he was clearly satisfied the bad times were now over.

"Napoli's face is no longer ugly, it's beautiful," he said.

Internazionale, second in the standings two points behind Napoli, were also celebrating victory over Sampdoria, who had been third before the game, thanks to two goals from West German captain Lothar Matthaus — "the unstoppable panzer."

Elsewhere in Europe, the joy was more muted.

In the Netherlands, gloom ruled at the top of the first division as PSV Eindhoven returned from their winter break with a lacklustre 1-1 draw against second-last BVV Den Bosch.

The match was overshadowed by morale problems sparked by 26-year-old Wim Kieft, who wants to leave PSV because he feels neglected in favour of recently acquired strikers Romario of Brazil and Flemming Povlsen of Denmark.

"PSV is playing so clinically and with so little pleasure that their performance cannot be

patched and so we talked it out," he said, referring to a string of poor results that culminated in his team being booted off the pitch earlier this month.

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"PSV is playing so clinically and with so little pleasure that their performance cannot be

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH  
© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### COMBINE YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable: Ninth deal.

**NORTH**  
♦ 8 3  
7 2  
A Q 5 4  
♦ A K 5 4 2

**EAST**  
♦ K 6  
7  
Q 3  
K 9 8 3  
♦ 3 8 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♦ A Q J 10 9 5 4 2  
A 5  
2  
♦ 4  
Pass

**WEST**  
♦ 10 9 6 4 3  
J 18 7 5  
♦ Q 10

The bidding:

**North**: East: South: West

1 Pass: 2 4: Pass  
3 4: Pass: 3 4: Pass

Pass: Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

## Violence rages in Kashmir amid Indo-Pakistan talks

**SRINAGAR, India (Agencies)** — Snipers fired at Indian troops from rooftops, and roving militants defied a curfew to hurl stones at soldiers Monday as the death toll in Kashmir's latest explosion of violence reached 40.

"The whole city is up in revolt," Srinagar Police Inspector General Mohammad Nomani said.

The Islamic militants, who want Kashmir to become independent or merge with neighbouring Pakistan, marched out of homes and mosques in at least three areas of Srinagar as government troops sought to keep everyone off the streets.

One paramilitary policeman was killed by a sniper and one protester was shot to death by the army Monday, Nomani said.

He said 38 other people, most or all of them militants, had died since the trouble started late Saturday night.

In New Delhi, Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaacob Khan held talks with the new Indian government on the unrest in Kashmir, officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the main group fighting Indian rule, called a strike Monday in protest at the weekend violence and Khan's visit, fearing a deal with Delhi for a crackdown on its activities in Pakistan.

The militants have created

near-anarchy in predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state. Srinagar and other major towns have been under curfew almost continuously for a month.

India and Pakistan fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Kashmir, a strategic territory wedged between China and Pakistan. It also borders India's Punjab, where thousands have died in a Sikh separatist campaign.

India accuses Pakistan, which controls one-third of resource-rich but cash-poor Kashmir, of aiding militants and turning a blind eye to arms-smuggling across the ceasefire line.

Pakistan denies training or arming the gunmen, a point Khan was expected to hammer home in Monday's talks with India's newly-elected National Front government.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Gujral, in a banquet speech welcoming Khan, said pointedly that Pakistan should abide by the 1972 peace accord that settled the last war, in which each promised not to help the other's dissidents.

Delhi says Jammu and Kashmir

is part of the Indian union, while Pakistan — and the United Nations — maintain it is disputed territory and should be allowed self-determination through a plebiscite.

The growing violence could easily spin out of control and embroil India and Pakistan in another conflict, the president of Pakistan-controlled Azad (Free) Kashmir said Sunday after meeting Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Sardar Abdul Quyyum Khan said there was a real danger that Kashmiris in the Pakistan army on a United Nations-supervised ceasefire line dividing the disputed Himalayan region could desert with their arms to join the militants.

The ceasefire line snakes through mostly forested mountains where Pakistan and Indian soldiers eye each other from bunkers a few hundred metres apart.

The state government appealed to its employees to donate blood to save the lives of the critically injured. Srinagar's two main hospitals said they received a total of 150 injured people, most suffering from bullet wounds.

Thousands of Muslims took to the streets beginning late Saturday night after government security forces rounded up suspected militants. Nomani said 251 people had been detained in the raids but all except four had been

released in an attempt to ease the situation.

He estimated the militants' strength at 1,500 and said they had at least 1,000 weapons, mostly automatic rifles.

The first killings came late Saturday when paramilitary police fired on a stone-throwing mob. Confrontations continued Sunday.

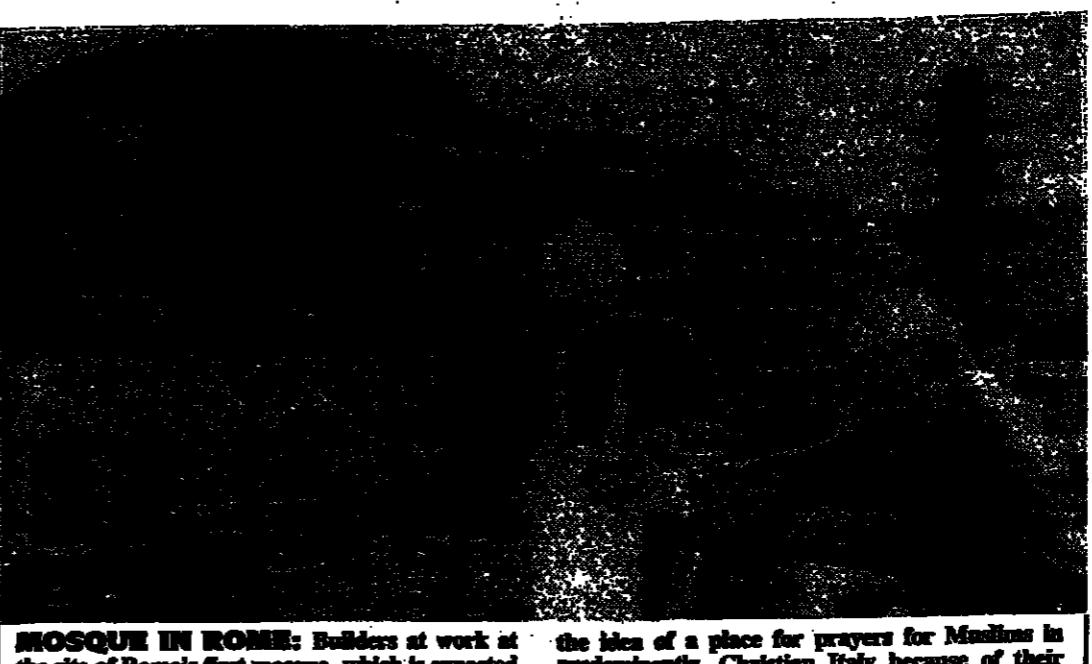
But as the day wore Monday, bands of 50 to 100 men ignored the curfew.

At least 50 people streamed out of one mosque in downtown Srinagar. Some hurled stones at the troops, while others beat their breasts and shouted: "You Indians, go back."

Teenage boys hauled out an Indian flag and shredded it in front of the soldiers. As the stones continued to fly, soldiers opened fire. One demonstrator fell to the street dead.

Heavily armed soldiers guarded government buildings and bridges over the streams running into Dal Lake, once a major attraction for the thousands of Indian and foreign tourists who used to flock to the Kashmir Valley.

Public transport and private automobiles were banned and gasoline stations were closed out of fear the militants would extract fuel to make firebombs, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.



**MOSQUE IN ROME:** Builders at work at the site of Rome's first mosque, which is expected to be completed this year. The Vatican has blessed the idea of a place for prayers for Muslims in predominantly Christian Italy because of their increasing number.

## Column

**Anne hopes for better role models**

**LONDON (AP)** — Princess Anne, daughter of a reigning monarch, says she wishes her children had better role models. "I look around and wonder what sort of examples they have to look up to now," the daughter of Queen Elizabeth II told a BBC Radio interviewer. "That worries me. I don't think there are very many... I think their older generation is to blame for that." Anne, 39, who separated from her husband, Mark Phillips, in August, said she is not very strict with her 12-year-old son and eight-year-old daughter. "I don't go along with the 'seen and not heard.' It would be very nice but I think it's rather an impractical suggestion really," said the princess. She said her travels on behalf of the Save the Children's Fund, of which she is president, have made her more concerned about what she sees at home.

## 'Batman' loses duel

**BURBANK, California (AP)** — Adam West, the caped crusader in the "Batman" TV show, lost his dynamic duel against advertising agencies that produced a commercial using an actor who had his bat moved down well. West, who still dresses up as Batman for public appearances, sought \$900,000 in damages for invasion of privacy, unfair competition and unauthorized use of an endorsement. But Burbank Supervisor Court Judge Stephen O'Neil ruled that the central issue was a contractual detail that had nothing to do with West's portrayal of Batman. "Adam West is a talented actor, but he was an actor, not the creator of Batman," O'Neil said. The 30-second commercial was produced for Zayre, a discount store chain.

West, 59, had insisted the impersonator trampled on his artistic expression. "When you look at the Mona Lisa, you don't think of identifying the copy with the original," he said.

**Overnight, I consulted with the national defence minister and the interior minister, and had the situation checked," Modrow said. "The weapons are stored and nowhere have there been (joint) exercises."**

Modrow also said he was convinced there were no plans for an opposition-led general strike, which Bild claimed was being prepared if the government does not make key concessions. Bild cited unidentified opposition sources for the information, about the reported coup plans.

**Boehme, of the Social Democratic Party, said the Bild report undermines public confidence in the government. Wolfgang Schmitz, a top official of the Demokratische Aufbruch Movement, called the Bild report a "horror story."**

**New Forum delegate Ingrid Koeppel also criticised the Bild report, saying her movement did not provide the newspaper with the information and denying that the group planned a general strike.**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A former armoured car guard kept his promise and has surrendered to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) two years to the day after he says he stole \$651,000. "America is a great country," Edward Leigh Hunt, 26, said as federal agents hustled him away Saturday. Hunt — who said he gambled away the booty during his two years on the lam following the Jan. 20, 1988, Philadelphia holdup — said in a Dec. 2 letter to his hometown paper, the Wilmington (Delaware) News Journal, that he would give himself up. As promised, he showed up at midday Saturday in front of the downtown Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce. Shirtless and wearing blue jeans and brown leather shoes, Hunt walked to the middle of a street, raised his arms and surrendered to four FBI agents. "Clear the way," the agents barked at reporters and camera crews as they led Hunt, looking pale and frightened beneath wet shoulder-length hair, inside the chamber building. Several youths who identified themselves only as friends of Hunt applauded and yelled, "Yeah! Lee," and "Let him speak," as he was led inside.

**Hunt was being questioned by federal agents and would be booked at a U.S. marshal's office, said FBI spokesman Fred Reagan. Hunt was to be arraigned Monday on federal interstate theft charges, Reagan said.**

**Global weather**

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	0	4
ATHENS	0	11
BAHRAIN	0	32
BANGKOK	24	32
Buenos Aires	17	32
CARDO	0	18
CHICAGO	0	32
FRANKFURT	0	42
GENEVA	0	41
HONG KONG	10	32
ISTANBUL	0	14
LONDON	0	32
LOS ANGELES	0	45
MEDINA	0	34
MONTRÉAL	0	21
MOSCOW	0	37
NEW DELHI	14	32
NEW YORK	0	31
PARIS	0	45
ROME	0	27
SYDNEY	0	22
TOKYO	0	32
VIENNA	0	34

## Roh, Kims to form one party

**SEOUL (AP)** — President Roh Tae-Woo formally announced Monday that his governing party would be dissolved to create a huge new conservative party in alliance with two moderate opposition groups.

Roh announced the decision on national television after a 10-hour meeting with opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil at his office.

"We are standing here to open a new historic chapter for democracy, prosperity and national unification," said Roh, flanked by the two Kims, who head the nation's two major opposition parties.

Roh, looking grim, said the new party, tentatively called the "Democratic Liberal Party," would be inaugurated within six months and encompass "all centrist, democratic forces."

The announcement made no mention of changing the country's current presidential government system to a cabinet system, but officials said the leaders reached full agreement on that.

They decided, however, not to announce plans for changing the government structure for the time being to avoid friction with the country's largest opposition party, led by Kim Dae-Jung, officials said.

Kim Dae-Jung's party vehemently opposed the new conservative alignment, calling it a political coup d'etat aimed at holding on to power. He demanded immediate elections to seek public judgment on the change.

## Washington mayor filmed having sex

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Washington Mayor Marion Barry was filmed having sex with a fashion model in a police "sting" operation that ended with his arrest on drug charges, a local television station reported.

The CBS-affiliated station said Sunday police videotaped Barry, a former black civil rights leader, having sex with Rasheeda Moore, in a Washington hotel room before both smoked cocaine supplied by a second woman, a federal agent.

Moore, a friend of the mayor, had agreed to take part in the undercover "sting" because she was facing perjury charges at the time, according to the report, which quoted reliable sources. The federal prosecutor's office had no comment.

Barry's lawyer said his client, mayor of the U.S. capital for the past 11 years, would not resign. "Resignation is not one of the viable options that we will consider," Lawyer R. Kenneth Mundy said.

Barry, 53, was charged Friday with a single misdemeanor count of possessing "crack" cocaine. Prosecutors said he was videotaped smoking crack and later tested positive for cocaine in blood and urine samples.

There has been speculation Barry's defense might argue that his defence was "pre-disposed" to the crime and that this would negative any defense claim that Barry was trapped into doing something he would not otherwise have done.

## 8 Indian soldiers killed in Jaffna clash

**COLOMBO (Agencies)** — Eight Indian soldiers and several Tamil rebels were killed in fierce battles at the weekend in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district, Indian diplomats said Monday.

A spokesman for the Indian high commission (embassy) said members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked troops with rockets and heavy firearms Sunday from houses in a heavily populated area.

A rebel account of the clashes alleged the Tigers were attacked by Tamil rebels backed by Indian forces and that several civilians were killed in the fighting.

Indian troops had imposed a curfew at the scene of the fighting at Ariyalai, 26 kilometres south of Jaffna, when they were attacked by Tiger guerrillas, the Indian diplomat said.

The Indian spokesman said eight soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in the battles. Several militants also died, he said.

Tigers issued a statement claiming the Indian troops killed 20 Tamil civilians and destroyed

at least 100 houses in an attempt to eliminate Tiger supporters.

The Indian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied the Tiger's accusations.

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Prosper Avril

"had come to get me" Saturday but he escaped and was in hiding.

Hubert de Ronceray, of the rightist Mobilisation for National Development Party, who got his deportation order late Saturday, said on arrival in Miami that he was the party's real target and the government killed him (the colonel) because they made a mistake."